

REMARKS

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Interview with Examiner

Initially, Applicants wish to express their gratitude for the Examiner's helpful comments during the telephone conversation with Applicants' representative on October 30, 2007. Applicants' representative inquired as to the best manner to amend the claims, in order to recite allowable subject matter. The Examiner indicated that the claims should be amended to delete the limitations relating to the "condition regarding V". Applicants have accordingly amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Amendments

The claims have been amended to recite the subject matter which was indicated as allowable by the Examiner, as discussed above. Specifically, claims 1, 5, 22 and 24 have been amended, and claim 23 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Additionally, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to correct the spelling of "tensile". Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the application by these amendments.

Consideration After Final Rejection

Although this amendment is presented after final rejection, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments and consider the remarks, as they place the application in condition for allowance. During the telephone conversation with the Examiner on October 30, 2007, she indicated that the amendments would be entered after final, since they accept allowable subject matter, without the necessity for an RCE.

Patentability Arguments

The patentability of the present invention over the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims will be apparent upon consideration of the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejection of claims 1, 5, 8-10, 19 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-17374 alone, or in view of US 6,558,483 to Nakamura, has been rendered moot by the claim amendments. Specifically, as indicated on page 5 of the Office Action, the cited references do not teach or suggest the limitations of Applicants' amended claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 11, 22 and 24 recite allowable subject matter, if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, in view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully assert that each of the pending claims is allowable.


Conclusion

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the grounds of objection and rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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